

## **REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed January 25, 2008 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1-25 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

### **Examiner Interview**

Applicants' below-listed representative conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Bui on March 12, 2008. The interview was directed toward the disclosure of the Hope reference and the arguments of patentability presented below. The Examiner agreed that the claims as presented herein do distinguish the Hope reference for the reasons below. The Examiner is thanked for his time.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10-18 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hope (U.S. Patent 4,486,816). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hope discloses a housing 12 for printed circuit boards (e.g. 14). The housing includes side plates 44, 46 and top and bottom plates 195, 197. The top plate 195 extends between elements 20, 26. The bottom plate 197 extends between elements 22, 28.

Independent claims 1 and 17 recite a chassis having covers or plates. The covers and plates of the chassis are inserted within or captured by identical elongated members.

Claims 1 and 17 were previously amended to recite that the elongated members of the chassis are identical. As defined in Applicants' specification, the identical feature means that each elongated member can be used in any position to capture the various covers or plates (i.e., can be used as either an upper chassis member or a lower chassis member; and as either a forward chassis member or a rearward chassis member). Page 7 at lines 15-18. This allows each member to function in multiple ways, and therefore reduces production costs. Page 7 at lines 18-20.

The four elements 20, 22, 26, 28 of Hope are not identical, as required by claims 1 and 17. The pair of rearward elements 20, 22 is instead different than the pair of forward elements 26, 28. For example, the rearward elements 20, 22 include a channel 60 that

receives a printed circuit board 150; the forward elements 26, 28 do not have such a channel. The forward elements cannot therefore be used in a rearward position and do not provide the advantages found in the presently claimed chassis.

At least because Hope does not meet the structural limitations of having identical elongated members, as recited in claims 1 and 17, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 17, and dependent claims 2, 6, 7, 10-16, 18, and 21-25 are patentable.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 3-5 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hope (U.S. Patent 4,486,816) in view of Chatel (U.S. Patent 5,506,751). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hope (U.S. Patent 4,486,816) and further in view of Hill et al. (U.S. Patent 5,546,282). Claims 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hope (U.S. Patent 4,486,816) and further in view of Rebaudo et al. (U.S. Patent 4,470,100). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 3-5, 8, and 9 depend upon claim 1. Claims 19 and 20 depend upon claim 17. In view of the remarks regarding independent claims 1 and 17, further discussion regarding the independent patentability of dependent claims 3-5, 8-9, and 19-20 is believed to be unnecessary. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 3-5, 8-9, and 19-20 are in condition for allowance.

### **SUMMARY**

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-25) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.



Date: March 13, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Karen A. Fitzsimmons". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Karen A. Fitzsimmons

Reg. No. 50,470

KAF:cjc